

Some inland records of *Agrotis trux lunigera* Stephens (Lep.: Noctuidae)

Two males of this species have recently been recorded from Berkshire (administrative county) localities, the first from Slough, 16 Gilmore Close (VC24 – Bucks), 18.vii.1992 (data from MRH) and the second from a mercury-vapour light trap at Emmer Green, SU718773 (VC23 – Oxfordshire), 7.vii.1997, *leg.* DGN (specimen at the Museum of Reading). The occurrence of this species inland in Britain is puzzling as the British subspecies is reportedly both strictly coastal and sedentary. In Heath and Emmet (1979, *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*. 9. Harley Books) it is described as “Chiefly an inhabitant of sea cliffs . . . , but sometimes found a few hundred metres inland . . .”. On the continent *A. trux* regularly occurs inland (distribution map in Svendsen & Fibiger, 1992, *The distribution of European Macrolepidoptera* Fauna Lepidopterorum Europaeorum. 1. Noctuidae. 1: 215) but the two males agreed well with the British subspecies *lunigera* in having narrower, more oblong wings and darker coloration. While only two Berkshire specimens have been seen, additional literature records have been found for Bedfordshire – Aspley Heath, SP9436 (Arnold *et al.*, 1997, *The Butterflies and Moths of Bedfordshire*. Bedford: 327) and for Oxfordshire – Studley Village, near Bernwood Forest (Waring, 1990, *Ent. Rec.* 102: 233-238). This raises the possibility of at least one inland colony or perhaps dispersing adults. If there is such a colony, the favoured habitats are a matter of speculation, although cliff-like habitats such as railway cuttings and quarries would be worth investigating.— DAVID G. NOTTON, Reading Museum Service, Museum of Reading, Blagrove Street, Reading RG1 1QH & MARTIN R. HONEY, Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD.

The mottled grasshopper *Myrmeleotettix maculatus* (Thunberg) (Orth.: Acrididae) new to the Isle of Arran

Three new colonies of this species were found during 1996 at various localities on the Isle of Arran (VC 100). This species has apparently never been recorded before on Arran and there are no records in Marshall & Haes (1988. *Grasshoppers and allied insects of Great Britain and Ireland*. Harley Books) or the more recent work by Haes & Harding (1997. *Atlas of grasshoppers, crickets and allied insects in Britain and Ireland*).

A single female was initially found on 5 July 1996 at Shiskine Golf Course, Blackwaterfoot (OS grid ref. NR 887288) on a bare sandy patch on the south-facing side of an unvegetated dune. Further colonies were found on 20 July 1996 at Brodick Bay, Brodick (NS 013370) in a disturbed area between golf links and fore-dunes and at Sannox (NS 017453), where a single male was captured at the top of a sandy beach amongst sparse vegetation. All three colonies are apparently very small, with a maximum of six males stridulating at the Brodick colony on 20 July 1996.— ALEX RAMSAY, Dryfemount, Dundas Street, Bo’ness, West Lothian EH51 0DG.